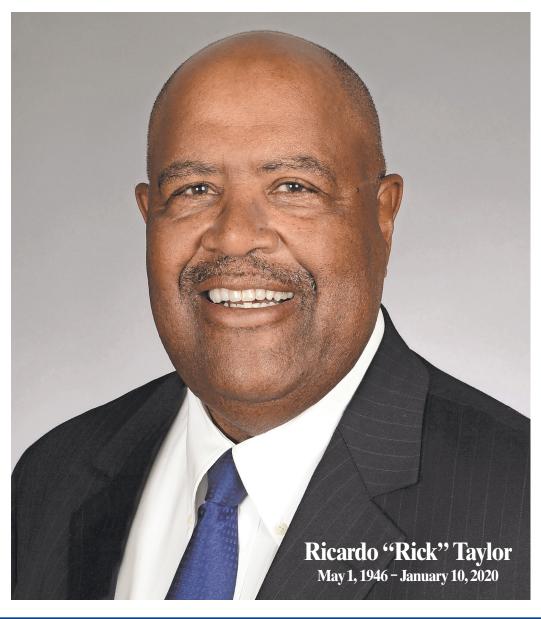
# PAIAround Pennsauken Pennsauken



VOL.25, NO.2

**A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken** 

February 2020



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# Look!



Remembering Rick Taylor See Page 4

Irish Nite On Leap Day See Page 10

First Responders Sworn In, Proclamations See Page 20

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# Plus!

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### **FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

### **Half Century Jets**

This senior group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at noon in St. Cecilia's School Hall, 4851 Camden Ave., Pennsauken. Featuring guest speakers, musical entertainment, and more. For more information, call (856) 456-0173.

### **PASA**

The Pennsauken Alliance on Substance Abuse (PASA) meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m., at Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken. PASA works to increase community awareness about substance abuse, as well as provide prevention programs. The public is invited to attend.

### **Town Watch**

Pennsauken's Town Watch hosts its next meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., in the second floor meeting room of the Pennsauken Police Department, 4800 Bethel Ave. Come learn how to make our community safer. For more information, call (856) 488-0080 ext. 2417.

### **American Legion**

American Legion Fredrick W. Griggs Post 68 will meet on Thursday, Feb. 13,7:00 p.m., at the Merchantville Community Center, 212 Somerset Ave. Eligibility for membership in the American Legion has been expanded to include those who served honorably during the periods of April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941, to a time later determined by the federal government. The Post has an Auxiliary Unit which also meets at 7:00 p.m. at the same location. Any spouse, whether male or female, of a veteran who is an American Legion member, or the daughter of a veteran, is welcome to join.

### PHS All Years Alumni Lunch

PHS Alumni from all years are invited to a monthly lunch at the Penn Queen Diner, 7349 Rt. 130, Pennsauken. This month's lunch is on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact Norma at (856) 220-5597.

### PENNSAUKEN FEBRUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Township Committee** Now at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6 & 20

**Zoning Board of Adjustment** 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5 & 19

**Planning Board** 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4 & 25

Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Pennsauken Municipal Building 5605 Crescent Blvd. (At the corner of Route 130 and Merchantville Avenue)

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### "Hobby" Tea Party

Athene Chapter #201 O.E.S of NJ holds their annual tea on Saturday, Feb. 22, at The Merchantville Masonic Temple, 6926 Park Ave. in Pennsauken. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., tea starts at 1:00 p.m. This year's theme is "hobby." Entertainment will be provided. Donation is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. Contact Krissie at (856) 663-2616 or Linda at (609) 702-9071 for information.

### "Happy Birthday George!"

To celebrate George Washington's birthday, VFW Post 1270, 2324 Penn St., Pennsauken, invites the community to an evening of fun and music on Saturday, Feb. 22, 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Featuring performers James Duffy and Nate Kranefeld. Tickets are \$10. For more info, call (856) 317-9081.

### Flea Market

St. Peter's flea market is on Saturday, March 7,8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in Pastor's Hall, 43 W. Maple Ave., Merchantville. Featuring interesting items and lots of food. Vendor spots are \$20 and include a table. For more info, call Jo at (856) 667-5237

### **EMS Puts New Ambulance In Service**

At the end of last year, Pennsauken Emergency Medical Services put a new, 2019 Horton Ambulance into service.

This Horton Ambulance has numerous safety features to protect the patient, any family that comes to the hospital with them, and the treating EMTs. Some of the safety features include additional airbags in the patient compartment area; four-point safety harnesses/seatbelt for ambulatory patients; and a stabilizing track to secure the stretcher better. The chassis is a Ford E-450 with a heavy suspension to reduce maintenance costs over the years and to provide a smoother ride for our patients.



Pennsauken's Emergency Medical Services has a new Horton Ambulance in service to serve the community.

The purchase of this ambulance again demonstrates the Township Committee's commitment to providing the best possible emergency medical services to the residents of Pennsauken.

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# Working Hand In Hand At The Start Of A New Decade



By Tim Killion, Mayor of Pennsauken Township

As I said at last month's reorganization meeting, I am honored and humbled to be the mayor of Pennsauken. This is not a responsibility that I take lightly; I am determined to be a tireless advocate for our residents.

I am very excited to be working with my fellow members of committee: our deputy mayor, Marco, as well as Al, Betsy, and Jessica. Their dedication and passion for Pennsauken is motivating and I can't wait to see what this year holds!

For our Committee to be successful, we need help from others. Our fantastic township employees work hard each day to keep Pennsauken running. Without them, nothing can happen. We ask that our municipal staff keep what's best for our residents at the forefront of their decisions and work with us so we can achieve things more efficiently and collaboratively. We need to work together in order to be successful and be adaptable to our changing world.

Working with our residents is also equally important. We are here to serve you. Committee and each township employee exist to make our town better for you. However, we need your help. We

### Officer Bristow And K9 Xanto Graduate Academy



Officer Bristow and his K9 partner Xanto graduated from the Camden County K9 Academy last month after four months of training. Both are on the job protecting the Pennsauken community. need your help in making our community safer, cleaner, and being more involved. Your voice matters. Your voice counts. We are going to do our best to be more available to you. It's why we've changed our Township Committee meetings to start at 6:00 p.m. We want to make sure more of our residents can come out to our meetings and voice their opinions and share their concerns. We'll also have representatives from our police, fire department, EMS, and code office at our meetings on an ongoing basis. We want you to get the answers you're looking for in a timelier basis.

Also, in the coming weeks, the members of Committee, myself included, will

be more present on social media. We live in a digital world and should be interacting with our residents online.

We also want to hear from you. If you have any ideas to help the members of Township Committee to be more accessible to our residents, let us know. We're willing to listen.

In closing, I'm reminded of the words of President John F. Kennedy: "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." Each and every one of us should do what we can to make Pennsauken better. I, on behalf of the entire Township Committee and municipal staff, invite you to come along on this journey with us.

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### Public Servant, Educator, Pennsauken Proud: Rick Taylor Passes Away

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Rick Taylor, longtime Pennsauken resident, public servant, and educator, died last month after battling a prolonged illness. He was 73.

Upon news of his passing, many of his former colleagues and friends took an opportunity to share what Taylor meant to them.

"Rick was a pillar of Pennsauken for many decades, from his impact as an educator to his efforts in public service," said Mayor Tim Killion. "He was a fair, caring person who was thoroughly involved in his community. He truly touched people's lives." "Rick was a staple in this town. He was a leader on so many levels," added Deputy Mayor Marco DiBattista. "I joked that I went from getting detentions from Rick to serving on Committee with him, but it was a true honor. We're all going to miss him very much."

"The most important lesson I learned from Rick is to walk humbly, speak honestly, and live faithfully," reflected Township Committeewoman Betsy McBride. "He told me two things recently as his health declined that I will always treasure. He said he never questioned that I was 'for the people' and he encouraged me to keep doing what I do. He also told

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me when I wanted to focus on the environment in 2012, he questioned it. He asked, 'What's all this green stuff?' But he then said, 'it turned out to be a good idea.' I will truly miss the man, his laugh, his wisdom, his faith, and his counsel.'

"When I first joined Committee, he welcomed me to the team with open arms. I am so sad that he left us so soon. We will miss him and may he rest in peace," added Township Committeewoman Jessica Rafeh. "He will always be remembered and never be forgotten. My condolences to his beautiful wife.

Bernice, and the entire Taylor family."

"Pennsauken Township has lost an iconic political dignitary with the passing of Rick Taylor," said Al Dyer, Township Committee member." Rick was everyone's 'go to guy.' My deepest condolences go out to Bernice and the family. Thanks for sharing Rick with the great Township of Pennsauken. He will truly be missed."

"I was honored and proud that Rick called me, 'little brother.' That meant so much to me," added Jack Killion, who worked with Taylor at the Pennsauken School District and served with him on Township Committee through their retirements in 2019. "Whether you were a janitor or a member of Congress, he just loved, accepted, and embraced everybody with his good nature and his humor.

"If it meant doing the right thing, Rick would support it, even if it wasn't popular. He'd back you, no matter what."

"Rick Taylor was a special man. He lived for and loved his family, church, and community," Pennsauken Director of continued on page 23

### Why Should I Care About The 2020 Census?

By Kristen Diaz, Pennsauken 2020 Census Complete Count Committee

In March and April 2020, households across the country will receive mailed invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Why should you bother filling it out?

If you would like afterschool programs for the children in your life; emer-

gency medical care for the senior citizens you love; enough fire stations to keep your block safe; or companies to bring you new job opportunities, then completing the 2020 Census is for you.

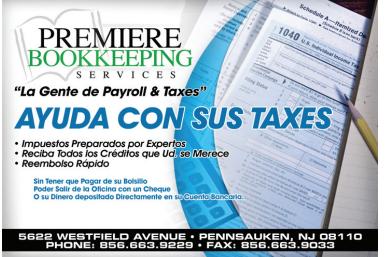
The 2020 Census will ask you just nine questions, including the age, sex, ethnicity, and number of people in your home,

so that Pennsauken will get the funding we are entitled to from all levels of government for the number of people who live here. Your answers to the Census will provide the data that Pennsauken Township and Camden County will use to determine where we need new roads, schools, and fire stations. Companies also use the information gathered by the Census to learn where they will find enough workers to staff new stores and to learn which products would serve Pennsauken residents best.

Finally, Census numbers will be used to make sure that our congressional district and our state have the right number of representatives in the New Jersey and federal congresses.

So, if you want to be accurately represented in government and would like to see health, education, and work improvements, keep an eye out for the Census invitation; and when it arrives, complete the Census. Because the Census can make a huge difference.

For more information about the 2020 U.S. Census, visit 2020census.gov.





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### Pennsauken Township Committee Holds 2020 Reorganization Meeting

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

On Jan. 3, Pennsauken's Township Committee gathered for its reorganization meeting, setting up the municipal government for 2020. While the swearing in of the town's mayor, deputy mayor, committee members, and the approval of municipal appointments is an annual occurrence, this year's meeting had a different feel, with several fresh voices now in charge of steering Pennsauken Township into a brand new decade.

### Mayor, Deputy Mayor Sworn In, Newly Elected Officials Take Oath Of Office

Newly elected Committee member Tim Killion, accompanied by his wife, Bridget, and young son, Aiden, was sworn in by Superior Court Judge Louis R. Meloni to serve as Pennsauken's mayor for the very first time.

"I would like to thank Township Committee for your support and trust, and I am very excited to work with all of you in the upcoming year," said Killion in his remarks during the reorganization meeting. "Thank you to our residents for electing me to be on Committee and for your encouragement."

Marco DiBattista, standing with his wife, Nitsa, and daughter, Sophia, took the oath of office as the town's deputy mayor, again officiated by Judge Meloni. This was also DiBattista's first time being appointed to this role; and the impact of the moment was not lost on the Committee member.

"Humbling isn't a strong enough word to say how I feel. I want to thank every person in this room for being here, because this town is so important," said DiBattista. "Being on Committee has far exceeded any expectations I've had. My love for this town is strong and I am honored to have the chance to help shape where we're going."

Continuing with this series of firsts, Al Dyer was sworn in as Pennsauken Township Committee's newest member. During his swearing in by Judge Meloni, Dyer was joined by his wife, Medinah; daughters, Amina and Amani; mother, Wilhelmenia; brother, Anton; sister, Shakima; and sister-in-law, Tonya. He thanked his family for their support, and looked forward to his first year of public service.

"I'm very excited to get started. I know I'm new to this process, but I have some great mentors," said Dyer. "Learning from each other is a good way to start. I think we can accomplish a lot of good things together."

### Exciting Changes For The Start Of A New Decade

During his public remarks, Mayor Killion noted that there were many changes in regards to the town's local government. In addition to new members of Township Committee, Pennsauken has a new administrator, Joseph Palumbo, who has served as the community's fire chief since 2011.

"Joe has proven himself as a dedicated and caring leader, who has transformed the fire department and always has what's best for Pennsauken on his mind," said Killion. "His attention to detail, respect for our community, and relentless passion will suit our township extremely well."

Killion went on to say that while change can be uncomfortable for some, Pennsauken's new administration is confident that what begins this year will lead to bigger and better things for Pennsauken.

"Four out of the five of us on Committee are new and we have a new administrator. I'm excited for the challenge and look forward to shaping our town as



Tim Killion is sworn in as mayor of Pennsauken during the 2020 reorganization meeting for Township Committee.

we begin a new decade.

"There has been a strong foundation laid before us that we are now charged with building upon. We might not do it like it has been done before, but we will do it with the same passion, energy, dedication, and care that past Committee members have put forth. This team sit-

ting up here tonight cares about Pennsauken, loves Pennsauken, and respects the residents of Pennsauken. We will do our best to make our town better. We will do our best to transform and evolve Pennsauken. We will do our best to make you proud to call Pennsauken home, because I know this team is proud

to call Pennsauken home."

As part of doing things differently, Mayor Killion announced that Township Committee meetings will now be held at 6:00 p.m., making it easier for residents to attend. In addition, representatives from Pennsauken's police, fire, EMS, and code

continued on page 8



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### Woman's Club Holds Annual Spelling Bee

The Woman's Club of Merchantville held its annual spelling bee on Jan. 18. The spelling bee was open to students in fourth and fifth grades from Pennsauken and Merchantville public and private schools, as well as Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Maple Shade.

After several competitive rounds, this year's winners were Daphne Nguyen, Pennsauken Intermediate School, first place; Maxwell Romen, Pennsauken In-

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termediate School, second place; and Evangeline Braciszewski, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, third place. Other participants included Na'sir Devalle, Dior Byrd, Bianca Tswago, Samiyah Jones, Countess Beckham, and Marion Mayo from Pennsauken Intermediate School; Isabella Lynn from Saint Cecilia's School; and Matthew O'Shaughnessy and Charles Lane from Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

The winners of the competition advance to the district spelling bee this month.

All the participants should be congratulated for their hard work in preparing for the bee and the courage to participate. They are the top spellers in their class! The Woman's Club would like to thank the parents, teachers, family members, and friends who came out to support these talented students!

### February Meetings For Merchantville Woman's Club

The Evening Membership of the Woman's Club of Merchantville will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Merchantville Community Center, 212 Somerset Ave., at 7:00 p.m. That evening's speaker will be from the Merchantville Historical Society.

The Woman's Club of Merchantville will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19, noon, at the Mer-



Maxwell Romen, Daphne Nguyen, and Evangeline Braciszewski, seen here with MaryAnne Snyder (far left) and Suzie Wagner (far right), were this year's winners of the Woman's Club of Merchantville's annual spelling bee.

chantville Community Center. There will be a tea luncheon and a speaker from Virtua Health.

The Merchantville Woman's Clubs have been some of the leading service organizations in the region. Women from our community are members committed to making a difference. Among other

things, the Club raises money for local and state charities and scholarships. Activities include monthly card and game parties; and members volunteer at the Cathedral Kitchen. If you would like to attend a meeting, or for more information, contact Jan at (609) 410-4650 or janwh@aol.com.

### **Volunteers Needed For Community Organizations**

Pennsauken Township is seeking community volunteers for both the Pennsauken Environmental Commission and the Pennsauken Shade Tree Commission.

The Pennsauken Environmental Commission was established for the protection, development or use of natural resources. The Commission has the power to conduct research into the use of open

land and shall keep an index of all open areas, publically and privately owned, in order to obtain information on the most desirable use of such areas.

The purpose of the Pennsauken Shade Tree Commission is to develop a program of tree planting and overall beautification and to regulate, plan, care and control the shade and ornamental trees and shrubberies on our streets, highways, public places, parks and parkways.

Interested parties are asked to fill out the online form at www.twp.pennsau ken.nj.us/content/want-volunteer. Be sure to select "Boards and Commissions" in the "How I'm Interested In Volunteering" section and include the specific organization in the "Please Provide Additional Info" field.

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### Pennsauken Township Committee Holds 2020 Reorganization Meeting continued from page 5

enforcement will attend each meeting to answer questions that residents might have on the spot. Committee meetings will also go "on the road," visiting members of the community at various parts of town. And that's just the beginning, according to the new mayor.

"Our Committee and our administrator will be looking at ways for our town to be more efficient and to streamline processes, so our residents can have a better experience with government, as well ensuring that our residents receive great customer service," explained Killion. "I plan on increasing our activity on social media, so you hear directly from me, committee members, and department heads on what is happening in town." In closing, Mayor Killion and the members of Township Committee again enthusiastically expressed their commitment to working with the residents of Pennsauken to make the town an even better place to work, live, and raise a family.

"Please give this Committee a chance, as we embark on this new decade," said Mayor Killion. "Challenge us and yourself to dream for Pennsauken. Let's push the envelope to be better and be the role model and a trailblazer for other towns. Look upon the horizon of what we want Pennsauken to be and let's go for it."

"I'm excited for the New Year. I'm excited to have Al on Committee. I'm excited to work with Jess, Betsy, and Tim," added DiBattista. "The future's bright."



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# Rick Taylor Throughout The Years



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Deputy Mayor Taylor welcomes home Army Specialist Kyle Haines in 2012.



Rick Taylor receives the 2018 MLK Freedom Medal Award from the Camden County Board of Freeholders.



Pom poms in hand, Rick celebrates the opening of Haddon Point Apartments on the former Pennsauken Mart site in 2017

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### **SENIORCORNER**

By Sonny DiSabato, Senior Citizen Coordinator

Hello fellow seniors.

A local business is hosting a weekly tai chi group for seniors. A Place Called Nam, 4102 Maple Ave. in Pennsauken offers tai chi on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. for

### Senior Tai Chi Group Held In Pennsauken

the local community, ages 55 and older.

Tai chi is a Chinese practice of slow, gentle movements known for its health benefits. It's free of charge, but donations are welcome. For more information, call Vaughn Frye at (856) 383-8013.

### Free Legal Presentation on Medicaid

United Methodist Communities at Collingswood, 460 Haddon Ave., Collinswood, N.J., is hosting a free legal presentation on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Charles C. Bratton, II, Esq., LL.M., will be discussing the topic, "Medicaid Myths and More." Attendees will gain important information they can use to choose the best long-term care plan for themselves or a loved one.

The presentation begins at 12:30 p.m. sharp and runs until 1:45 p.m. A light lunch will be provided.

To reserve your seat, call Matt Smith at (856) 854-4331, ext. 5126 at least one week prior to Feb. 11.

Wishing you good health. Please say a prayer for the men and women serving in our military, especially those in



Let us help you, help vour loved one at **STARS Adult Medical Day Care Center.** 

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### **Annual Irish Nite Fundraiser Held On Leap Day**

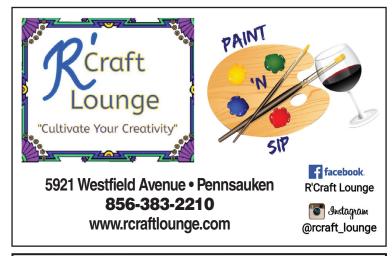
Mary, Queen of All Saints Parish is hosting its annual Irish Nite fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Msgr. Kavanagh Hall, 48th St. and Camden Ave., Pennsauken. The event, which is BYOB, features an evening of great food and fun. Irish music provided by Balliná; beer and setups are provided.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Tables of 10 or more can be reserved. Proceeds go directly to support the parish's annual expenses.



Balliná will be the musical entertainment at Mary Queen of All Saints' annual Irish Nite, held on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

For more information, or to order tickets, call (856) 662-2721.







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**BUS AIDES WANTED - \$11.00 PER HOUR** 

All applicants must be 21 years of age or older and Pass a Criminal Background Check

### **GRAYMATTERS**

### **Sharing The Love On Valentine's Day And Beyond**

By Judith Kristen, AAP Columnist

Hi there! It's another February; and another Valentine's Day to celebrate with my heart.

This year, I bought a few dozen of those little cards we used to give out when I was a kid back in the 1950's.

Our teacher, Mrs. Davine, along with all of the students, would create a pretty Valentine box; we would place all of the cards to our classmates in it. And then, come Feb. 14, we would have all these lovely, colorful cards with cute little messages written on them to take home, enjoy, and cherish. I loved it!

To top that off, Mrs. Davine would always give each and every one of us a small, velvety, heart-shaped box, tied with a pretty red bow, all filled with our favorite chocolates.

I tried not to eat all of mine before I got home. I usually had a few left... not always, but usually.

Okay, in truth, I ate all of them.

Chocolate aside, this year, I decided that I would sign all of my cards with a happy message, and give them out to the people I meet on the street and at our local stores: to neighbors and my animalloving friends over at Bow Wow Dog Park; and then of course, to my wonderful, fun, and funny, steadfast pals who put up with me, day in and day out, throughout the year.

Not that we shouldn't embrace and acknowledge our fellow man, woman, child, and animal-loving friends all year long. But Valentine's Day is one very

special day dedicated to love and goodness; a kind word, remembering friends, and honoring someone just because your heart tells you it's the right thing to do. Not even a box of chocolate is better than that! But it's close.

Happy Valentine's Day to you and to all those you love! Your friend, ~ Judy



### Tip of the Month

Before you go to bed, be sure to make sure your doors and windows are locked and that your outside light is on. Also, if you have a home alarm system, be sure to activate it. These simple steps can keep your home and family safe!

### **Mayor Killion Officiates First Wedding**



Last month, Pennsauken Mayor Tim Killion officiated his first wedding. Congratulations to Damarielis and Luis Ramirez!

### PREMIERE BOOKKEEPING "The Taxes & Payroll People" HELP WITH YOUR TAXES Prepared by Tax Experts Getting all the Credits that you Deserve Rapid Refunds No Out-of-Pocket Expenses The Ability to Walk out of the Office with a Check Having your Refund Direct Deposited into your Ac



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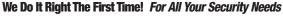
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# **inSchool**

### **Air Force JROTC Holds Promotion Ceremony**



Congratulations to the members of Pennsauken High School's Air Force JROTC, who were promoted during a special ceremony in December!

### Winter Concert At Delair A Success



The winter concert at Delair Elementary School was a great success! Third grade students performed songs celebrating winter fun. They worked hard to prepare and had a fantastic time performing for their families and friends!

### "STEPPING STONES TO FUN, LEARNING AND QUALITY"



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Not valid with any other offers. Expires 2/29/20

### Special Saturday Of Learning At Carson Delair PTA Holds



Students in the Gifted and Enrichment program enjoyed making ' Little Pigs Houses" during a special event at Carson Élementary.

The Elementary Gifted and Enrichment program participated in a Saturday of Learning at Carson School on Jan. 11.

Students and their parents and families learned about robots, engineering, and problem solving through various ac-

tivities, such as "Storytelling with Robots,""Three Little Pigs House Designs" and an escape room.

Everyone enjoyed the learning! A big thank you to Mrs. Tryon for organizing and facilitating this event!

### **Penguin Patch Holiday Shop**



Delair PTA parents and volunteers hosted a Penguin Patch Holiday Shop. During the day, students had the chance to select gifts for their loved ones, wrap it and have it just in time for the holidays. We had a great turnout!

Hours: Monday - Friday 6am - 7pm Saturdays 6:30am - 6pm, Sunday 6;30am - 4pm

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Page 14 February 2020



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**Fun Music Lessons At Baldwin** 



Students at Baldwin School have been learning a lot with Ms. Boucher in music class this year! The children have been having a great time learning about and enjoying music through singing, dancing, and playing instruments. They are looking forward to continuing the fun throughout the school year and preparing for their performances at graduation in the spring!

### Campbell Is Phifer's Superhero Of The Month For December



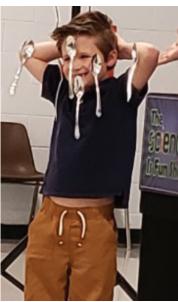
Phifer principal Sandra Allen recognizes Ms. Campbell as the "Superhero of the Month" for December. Ms. Campbell and the Phifer staff assisted in the collection of hundreds of gifts and over \$2,000 dollars to families that needed assistance during the holidays.

### PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net

### Franklin Assembly Shows That Science Is Fun



Franklin student Danny Murphy has spoons stuck on him during "The Science is Fun Show."

The Franklin Elementary PTA sponsored a special assembly in December, "The Science Is Fun Show!"

The host of the show performed many tricks that used science to make them happen. Student Danny Murphy was a lucky volunteer who had spoons stuck all over him! There were card tricks too; and even a rabbit was pulled out of a hat!

The students and staff really enjoyed this show.

For advertising rates and information call 662-5100 or email allaroundpenn@aol.com

### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



### Town Hall Meetings To Highlight What Pennsauken Public Schools Have To Offer

By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, MEd²., M.S., M.B.S., M.A², Ed.D., Superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools

In the past four years, the Pennsauken School District has made a close to \$50 million investment in the forms of collegiate academic offerings, career and technical education programs, athletic offerings, and new facilities This spring semester, I will host several Town Hall meetings, to bring parents and families up

to speed with the ongoing projects within Pennsauken Public Schools and all academic offerings for both primary and secondary education. I will be going into detail about specific initiatives such as:

- Career and technical education (CTE) programs
- Dual credit college/university partnerships/senior year option
- Intermediate School (grades four and five only)
- Phifer Middle School (grades

and staff are committed to the imple-

mentation of our Positive Behavior In-

terventions and Support (PBIS) goal of

increasing positive behaviors that pro-

mote learning and respectful interac-

tions. Students that exhibit "Fine"

six, seven, and eight)

- Full day pre-kindergarten
- Pennsauken night school
- Burling Alternative High School
- Summer enrichment opportunities

All Town Hall meetings will be held at Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd., 6:30 p.m., on the following dates: Tuesday, Feb. 25; Tuesday, March 24; Tuesday April 21; and Tuesday, May 19.

I would love to have the opportunity to explain why our opportunities in

Pennsauken Public Schools are leaps and bounds above all other educational institutions in the area. Graduates from Pennsauken High School's Class of 2019 have moved into unionized vocational professions and have been admitted to Ivy League universities such as Princeton, Columbia, and the University of Pennsylvania. Please come out and see what is being offered here!



### PENNSAUKEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### ANNOUNCES

Pre-Kindergarten and kindergarten registration (for children newly entering public school for the 2020-2021 school year). On-line registration will begin on March  $2^{nd}$ - $31^{st}$ , 2020.

- Children must be four years old on or before October 1, 2020, in order to be
  eligible for full day Pre-kindergarten (Space is limited for preK and is on a 1<sup>st</sup>
  come 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis). Complete the on-line registration now and call to make
  an appointment.
- Children must be five years old on or before October 1, 2020, in order to be eligible for kindergarten.

Online Pre-Registration will begin on March 2, 2020. **Registration information is** available at <a href="https://www.pennsauken.net">www.pennsauken.net</a>

Once you logon select the Registration/Residency button.

- \* Once you complete your on line registration call 856-662-5610 to make an in person appointment to complete the registration process.
- \*\* Pre-Kindergarten Seats are Limited and will be assigned on a First Come-First Serve

Note: Pennsauken students who currently attend pre-K will automatically be registered for kindergarten.

### "Fine" Character Creating A Cooperative Community

By Denise Monaghan and Brooke Doyle

George B. Fine has developed schoolwide expectations that all students should be respectful, responsible, and safe. We are working towards these expectations by implementing two exciting initiatives.

Responsive Classroom Morning Meeting is an engaging way to start each day, build a strong sense of community, and set children up for success socially and academically. Morning meetings are a time when students and teachers gather together, usually in a circle, for an organized start-of-day activity. The primary goal is to give students a safe environment that provides a sense of trust; allows all students to feel important; encourages respectful learning; helps regulate emotions; boosts empathy and teamwork; and supports all aspects of learning-academic, emotional, and social. During Morning Meeting, students interact with one another during four purposeful components: greeting, activity, message, and sharing.

Along with Morning Meeting, faculty

# "Striving for Excel CUELAS PUBLICAS

### ESCUELAS P $\square$ BLICAS DE PENNSAUKEN

ANUNCIOS

Inscripción para prejardín (pre-kindergarten) y jardín de infantes (kindergarten) (para niños que ingresan por primera vez a la escuela pública para el año escolar 2020-2021). La inscripción en línea será del 2 al 31 de marzo de 2020.

- Los niños deben tener cuatro años de edad antes del 1 de octubre de 2020 a fin de ser elegibles para el prejardín de día completo (el espacio es limitado para prejardín, y se otorga por orden de inscripción). Complete la inscripción en línea ahora y llame para coordinar una cita.
- Los niños deben tener cinco años de edad antes del 1 de octubre de 2020 a fin de ser elegibles para jardín de infantes.

La preinscripción en línea comenzará el 2 de marzo de 2020. La información de inscripción se encuentra disponible en <u>www.pennsauken.net</u>

Una vez que inicie sesión, seleccione el botón Registration/Residency (Inscripción/Residencia).

- \* Cuando termine de realizar su inscripción en línea, llame al 856-662-5610 para coordinar una cita en persona a fin de completar el proceso de inscripción.
- \*\* Los lugares para prejardín son limitados y se asignarán por orden de inscripción.

Nota: Los alumnos de Pennsauken que asisten actualmente a prejardín serán inscritos automáticamente en el jardín de infantes.



### KHU HỌC CH'NH PENNSAUKEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS THÔNG BÁO

Ghi danh vào lớp Mầm non và Mẫu giáo (dành cho trẻ em nhập học trường công lập lần đầu trong niên khóa 2020-2021). Ghi danh trên mạng bắt đầu từ **ngày 2 đến ngày 31 tháng 3, 2020**.

- Trẻ em phải lên 4 tuổi, trễ nhất là ngày 1 tháng 10, 2020, mới đủ tiêu chuẩn được ghi danh vào lớp Mầm non trọn ngày (vì số chỗ có giới hạn nên em nào ghi danh trước sẽ được nhận). Vui lòng điền đơn trên mạng bây giờ và gọi điện thoại lấy hẹn.
- Trẻ em phải lên năm tuổi, trễ nhất là ngày 1 tháng 10, 2020, mới đủ tiêu chuẩn được qhi danh vào lớp Mẫu qiáo.

Ghi danh trước trên mạng sẽ bắt đầu ngày 2 tháng 3, 2020. Thông tin ghi danh được đăng tải trên mạng tại<u>www.pennsauken.net</u>

Sau khi đẳng nhập, vui lòng chọn nút Registration/Residency (Ghi danh/Cư trú trong khu học chánh).

- \* Sau khi ghi danh trên mạng xong, xin quý vị gọi số 856-662-5610 để lấy hẹn đích thân hoàn tất thủ tục qhi danh.
- \*\* Số chỗ dành cho lớp Mầm non có giới hạn nên em nào ghi danh trước sẽ được nhận.

Lưu ý: Các em học sinh hiện đang học lớp Mầm non thuộc Khu học chánh Pennsauken sẽ được tự động ghi danh vào lớp mẫu giáo.

### Franklin Creates Winter Wonderland For PBIS Event

Franklin Elementary took two days in December for its PBIS event: the school's very own Winter Wonderland. Students had to earn 30 Penn Bucks in order to participate; and we had over 200 boys and girls attend!

Students got to watch the holiday classic, "Frosty the Snowman," and enjoy a delicious bag of popcorn! Afterwards, students took part in an arts and crafts activity, run by art teacher Mr. Cox: building and coloring their own "Frosty!"

Franklin students are looking forward to our next PBIS event later this month!

character receive character coins throughout each school day. Character coins are given to students who exhibit the "Six Pillars of Character," which are respect, responsibility, citizenship, trustworthiness, caring, and fairness. Students can also receive character coins for excellent attendance and dedication to completing schoolwork and homework. At the end of each month, students can purchase various enriching experiences/incentives with their character coins.

Some examples are playing games with

Principal Honeyman; a dance party with

Ms. Atkinson; cultural dance with Ms. Ortiz; coding with Mr. Vega; and "Minute to Win It" games with Mrs. Crawford. Other incentives have been a mystery prize bag, frozen treats, 30 minutes extra recess, and assisting Mr. Honeyman with morning announcements.

At Fine, we believe in our students'

At Fine, we believe in our students' ability to accomplish anything they put their mind to. We are here to guide, encourage and support them through their successes and failures. Remember, no one succeeds without making mistakes first!

Responsive Classroom and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Incentives are two inspiring programs that instill a strong sense of community and set children up for success socially and academically.

### with The Ree Wynn Foundation (Includes 3 hours of unlimited bowling, shoes, and buffet) Join us on Pinsetter Bar & Bowl 1AR 15T 7111 Maple Ave. From 5pm-8pm Merchantville, NJ \*Auction & Prizes Proceeds benefit Finding a Cure for TTP For tickets visit www.reewynn.org

Visit our Web Site: www.pennsauken.net

### Franklin Student Council Participates In Holiday Toy Drive



Franklin Elementary helped collect almost 400 toys to help families with children spending the holidays under the care of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Benjamin Franklin School Student Council participates in a toy drive every holiday season; and for the past two years, our participation has been more specific to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Our school collected new toys and had a dress down day, raising more than \$300 for Grace and Molly Rustico's annual toy drive, which delivers toys to children and their families that are staying at CHOP during the holidays. Trish Rustico is a teacher at Pennsauken Middle School and has started this drive due to spending time at CHOP with her own daughter one Christmas.

Almost 400 toys were collected from Benjamin Franklin School, a few other schools, and generous families. On Dec. 13, our student council students helped to load up physical education teacher Mrs. Levecchia's car; and important lessons were learned about giving to those in need.

### **Delair Performs "Winter Holidays Around The World"**

In December, Delair students performed "Winter Holidays Around the World," which brought together many customs from various countries and diverse cultures.

Singing, dancing, and crafting were just some of the ways our seven- and eight-year olds engaged in opportunities to gain a global perspective of holidays. These experiences helped them make literacy and social studies connections in addition to lifelong, lasting memories.

As one brilliant student surmised, "I never heard of some of these holidays, but now I feel like I know more about the whole world, and how the whole world celebrates!"

The performance was surely memo-



"Winter Holidays Around the World" was a performance that brought together customs from different countries and cultures.

rable and special to the second graders at Delair School. We hope the multicultural learning experiences last a lifetime.

### **Learning About Spanish Countries And Culture**

Students at Carson School were very excited to learn about Spanish countries and their culture. Ms. Fajardo's first grade class created paper plate flags and learned all about the Spanish speaking countries! Muy bien!



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### **Student Government** Makes "Cozies For Chemo"



Phifer student government, under the direction of their advisor, Ms. Aviles, created blankets for children with leukemia called "Cozies for Chemo." This creation of hand tied fleece blankets are given to patients going through chemotherapy, in hopes of providing them warmth and comfort during their long days of treatments.

### **Phifer Holds Holiday Concert**



Mr. Denofa's band students and Ms. Nelson's chorus gave a great performance that got everyone into the holiday spirit!

### All Aboard The Polar Express At Franklin



All aboard! First graders at Franklin enjoyed a reading on "The Polar Express" by two special guests, Jeremy and Zachary Galloza. Afterwards, Ms. Bergen entertained students with songs and everyone enjoyed cookies

### Pennsauken High School Holds Science Fair



Almost 200 exhibits were featured in last semester's science fair.

In January, Pennsauken High School held its science fair for the first semester of the school year. Two hundred and forty students showcased 195 exhibits in chemistry, biology, engineering, physics, and environmental science.

For the first time ever, National Honor Society students in advanced courses helped judge introductory exhibits. The science fair also featured a Community Project Sharing event on the evening of Jan. 15.

A special thank you goes to Bayada Home Health Care, who not only provided some of this year's judges, but also sponsored cash prizes for the level two exhibit winners.

The students did a great job presenting their hypotheses and data from their experiments!

### and hot chocolate! Pajama Fun At **Science Fair Delair School**

Delair students were singing along and dancing in their pajamas to fun songs right before their holiday break.



### **Celebrating Franklin Students** Of The Month

Twenty-eight fantastic Franklin students earned Student of the Month for December. These students exemplified the true meaning of being an outstanding student, not only in the classroom, but throughout the entire building at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School.

Being student of the month is a great honor and students celebrated with Mr. Jakubowski, school counselor. Congratulations to Davianna Santos-Busard; Chase Mourey; Hoang Nguyen; Josmeily Espinal-Disla; Zaeden Conquest-Benson; Rodman Meyer; Taylor Gray; Isabella Nguyen; Liam Thach; Carson Thai; Alexander Prado; Zachariah Rodriguez; Caesar Nguyen; Aubrey Lymper; Michael Cooper; Selenya Hodges; Lexxi Torres; Myles Mateo; Scarlett Pena; Lucas Nguyen; Ledwin Suero; Juliana Gabel; Digna Ventura-Martes; Kyle Griffin; Jose Acevedo; Alejandra Perez; Ava Walker: and Justin Daniels.

### **Carson Honors Students Of The Month**



Carson Elementary honored students from each classroom during their Students of the Month assembly.

Carson honored a student from each classroom at our monthly Student of the Month assembly. Students are chosen by their teacher for their outstanding effort.

This month, our theme was "Respect-

ful, Polite and Shows Good Manners." At Carson, we teach all of our students to be good citizens and we are delighted to highlight the students who are good role models for their peers.

### **Phifer Students Showcase Ideas, Inventions At**

Phifer Middle School held its annual Science Fair. Students were able to display their ideas and inventions to their teachers and peers!





### **Employment Opportunities**

The Behavioral Wellness Center At Girard, located in the heart of North Central Philadelphia, is a long-standing behavioral health facility that serves a diverse, under-served patient population. We offer a comprehensive continuum of care in addictive services, from detoxification services, residential care, outpatient services, and acute and sub-acute psychiatric services. Our mission is to provide quality health care, treatment, prevention and education in our facilities and in the community

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2628 Corbett Rd., Pennsauken

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209 Garden Ave., Somerdale

38 Cameron Circle, Clementon 8162 Day Ave, Pennsauken

6218 Lincoln Ave., Pennsauken

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8129 River Rd, Pennsauken

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6754 Githens Ave., Pennsauken

1551 W River Dr., Pennsauken

3120 Norwood Ave., Pennsauken

7123 Rudderow Ave., Pennsauken

263 South Barrett Ave., Audubon

152 Steeplechase Ct., Woodbury

121 Leslie Ave., Merchantville

4116 Laurel Ave., Pennsauken

819 Velde Ave., Pennsauken

2433 Shelley Lane, Pennsauken

524 Royden St., Camden

19 Linda Lane, Westville

115 Linden St., Camden

233 Quay Blvd., Brigantine

411 Lakehurst Ave., National Park

2562 Starr Rd., Pennsauken

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222 S 34th St., Camden

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WINTER STORE HOURS: DAILY 11AM-5PM

### Oaths Of Office, Proclamations At January Committee Meeting



At the Jan. 16 Pennsauken Township Committee meeting, Mayor Tim Killion gave proclamations to Lt. Johnathan Hutton and Firefighters Nicholas Johnson, Justin Squibb, and Robert Chester for their role in saving a trapped resident and extinguishing a house fire.

It was difficult to find a seat at the Township Committee meeting on Jan. 16, as several first responders took their oaths of office and proclamations were presented to several firefighters and a Pennsauken resident who went above and beyond the call of duty.

Michael Killion took the oath of office as a sergeant for the Pennsauken Township Police Department; and Zachary Pacana is the town's newest police officer. In addition, Norman Figueroa, III and John Clark were sworn in as lieutenants for the

Pennsauken Fire Department.

"They're all heroes, ladies and gentlemen," said Pennsauken Public Safety Director Bill Orth."We appreciate them and they are the best. God bless them."

Following the swearing-ins, Mayor Tim Killion gave proclamations to Lt. Johnathan Hutton and Firefighters Nicholas Johnson, Justin Squibb, and Robert Chester, members of Engine Company 1132 Platoon 3, for their work to rescue a civilian from a residential fire in the 1900 block of 46th St. on December 2, 2019. Killion also presented a proclamation to Pennsauken resident John Walker, in recognition of his efforts to alert his neighbor and work to extinguish a house fire on Hadley Drive in early December 2019.

"Mr. Walker, thank you so much. My daughter and I saw the flames on this house, shooting over all the houses on our block," said Deputy Mayor Marco DiBattista. "I sprinted as fast as I could.

By the time I got there, John already had

a garden hose from his neighbor's house

and put this fire out. It was the most im-

tions go to show the level of commit-

"The swearing-ins and the proclama-

pressive thing I've ever seen."



ment, care, and passion that our Town-

ship employees, our firefighters, police,

and residents have," said Mayor Tim Kil-

lion. "This is what Pennsauken is all

rade in trunks for some snow pants, swap your towel for a sled! The water is ice, the grass is all dead.

The pool's closed 'til summer, but there's snow on the ground, so bundle up and get going... to the best hill in town!

### Pennsauken **Veteran Honored At Town Hall**

During last month's Town Hall at the Camden County Boathouse, Pennsauken veteran Elias "Louie" Horiates, seen here with Deputy Mayor Marco DiBattista and Mayor Tim Killion, was honored for his service to our nation. For more on this event, visit AllAround-Pennsauken.com.



### **Browning Road Senior Club**

The Browning Road Senior Club invites local seniors to come and meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Meetings are held at Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 Route 130, Pennsauken at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments are served; there will be a short meeting followed by BINGO.

# Pennsauken Sewerage Authority

1250 John Tipton Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Phone: (856) 663-5542 • Fax: (856) 663-5718 • 24 Hour Emergency: (856) 662-0686

# Responsibility Responsibility ewer Connectiona

### **Important Customer Information**

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewage collection system in our service area. The sanitary sewage collection system is made up of main lines, force mains and pumping stations.

The homeowner owns and therefore is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lateral line from their dwelling up to and including the connection to the

The rules and regulations of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority require a back flow prevention device commonly referred to as a "back check valve" be installed whenever plumbing fixtures are located below street level, such as in the basement. PSA strongly recommends all our customers have a back check valve installed to prevent contamination in the event of a main line stoppage.

The discharge of water collected in a sump pit to the sanitary sewage collection system is prohibited.

Cooking grease poured down the drain can cause a blockage of the lateral line. Please dispose of grease properly.

### **REMINDER: CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.**

OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Thursday - 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday -7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PLEASE USE MAIL SLOT LOCATED IN OUR PUBLIC ENTRANCE DOOR TO DROP PAYMENTS WHEN THE OFFICE IS CLOSED.

TO PAY YOUR BILL ON-LINE - VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.PSEWER.COM AND CLICK ON THE BILLING BUTTON - THERE IS A \$3.95 FEETHE PROVIDER OF THE SERVICE CHARGES EACH CUSTOMER PER \$175 TRANSACTION.

If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.

### **FOODADVENTURES**



King cake is a delicious staple of many Mardi Gras celebrations. Photo credit: annca, Pixalbay.com.

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

The celebration of Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday, is steeped in traditions of celebration and food traced all the way back to medieval Europe in the 17th and 18th century, known then as "Boeuf Gras," translated as "fatted calf." In 1699, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Beinville (what a mouthful) ventured to

### The King Cake: Ruler Of The Mardi Gras Table

an area a bit south or New Orleans and named the land Pointe du Mardi Gras, in honor of the holiday. Mr. Bienville also established Fort Louis de la Louisiane in 1703, where America's very first Mardi Gras celebration took place. Years later in 1718, Bienville established New Orleans; and Mardi Gras has been a beloved and revered holiday there ever since.

The holiday includes massive parades, heavy libation consumption, the procuring of beads for a variety of tasks and THE FOOD! The roster of dishes includes gumbo, crawfish, etouffee, dirty rice, milk punch, hurricane drinks and especially king cake. King cake, also called rosca de reyes, is meant to lure the kings to the celebration of Epiphany; the Three Kings holiday celebrated in early January. Eventually, it made its way into Mardi Gras tradition. A tiny trinket, normally a figurine of a baby, is hidden within the cake; whoever gets the piece with the trinket inside is crowned king or

queen for the rest of Mardi Gras and must also provide the cake for the following year.

King cake is made of twisted cinnamon bread, commonly brioche, and then often decorated with yellow, green and purple icing. The trinket is placed within the cake from underneath after it is baked.

A lot of local bakeries carry things similar to king cake and often offer it around Mardi Gras. At Miguelinas Bakery, located at 3821 Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken, you can order them in advance. Call (856) 338-0228 for details. If you're feeling adventurous, there are plenty of tasty recipes online; you can also find a good base for the king cake at area supermarkets.

As they say in Nola Laisse, "le bon temps roule," otherwise known as "let the good times roll" and "profotez de votre aventures culinaire," enjoy your Food Adventures.

# GotCut? Gives Back With "Haircuts With Santa"



GotCut? Barbershop on River Rd. in Pennsauken held its annual "Haircuts with Santa Claus" event in December. Local kids received a free haircut, gift, and picture with Santa.







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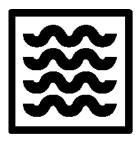
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# MPWC WATERLINES

### Our Adopt-A-Hydrant Program

With winter and the increased possibility of inclement weather, the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission, in conjunction with our local fire departments, is asking our communities to partner with us in our Adopt-A-Hydrant program.

In the event of a fire, fire departments need access to water supply via the nearest fire hydrant as quickly as possible, so that the fire can be extinguished, preventing minimal loss of property and/or life.

By adopting a hydrant, you'll be helping everyone in your neighborhood or surrounding businesses, as well as assisting fire crews. By keeping your adopted hydrant free of weeds and shrubs during warmer months and clear of snow and ice in winter months, you save firefighters precious minutes while fighting fires. When the hydrants are visible and accessible, everyone benefits.

Individuals can participate by adopting a hydrant nearest their homes. This is also a great opportunity for scouts, civic groups, or individuals looking to earn community service hours.

For more information and to apply, visit our website at MPWC.com. If you have any questions, e-mail hydrants@mpwc.com.

The MPWC and your local fire departments thank you for your support!

If you've signed up to participate in our Adopt-A-Hydrant project, remember to send us your pictures! If you're clearing your adopted hydrant of snow or other debris, snap a photo so that we can share it on our Facebook page!



# If you see water in the street:

- ODetermine if the water is from a neighbor's sub-pump
- Determine it isn't ground water from recent weather or as a result from irrigation systems
- Make note of where it is pushing up from the concrete



## Have You Received A Direct Mail Piece For Service Line Protection?

The MPWC has recognized HomeServe as a credible organization and as such supports their efforts to market a *voluntary* service line protection program to its customers. In lieu of any monetary gain, the MPWC insisted that the lowest possible monthly rate be offered to their customers. For more information, visit us on the web at www.mpwc.com.

### PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission Now Accepts Online Payments!

Log onto our website at www.mpwc.com and select the "Pay Your Bill" button right from our homepage.

# KEEP INFORMED WITH REVERSE 9-1-

For members of the community directly affected by water main breaks, we provide messages via our Reverse 9-1-1 notification system. To stay informed of all water emergencies that may occur within our service area, visit MPWC.com/swift911 to sign up for Reverse 9-1-1!

### A Reminder To Our Senior And Disabled Customers

Our senior and disabled customers are reminded to submit your enrollment form for your 2020 discount prior to your first quarter billing! Please note that even if you received a discount in 2019, you must apply EACH year to continue receiving your discount.

Now is a good time to collect any information you may need for your application. Stop by our administrative headquarters on Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken to pick up an application. You may also print a copy of the enrollment form by visiting our website at www.mpwc.com. Our customer support representatives will be happy to assist you in completing your enrollment form. Your enrollment form requires your block and lot number, so please bring along a copy of your tax bill.

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public and are held at 6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken.

Questions about your service?

Call 663-0043 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., emergencies – call 663-0044 anytime.

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### Public Servant, Educator, Pennsauken Proud: Rick Taylor Passes Away continued from page 4



Extremely active in the Pennsauken community, Bernice and Rick Taylor were happily married for 50 years.

Public Safety Bill Orth, who served with Rick on Township Committee for many years. "He was a significant personality who made everyone around him feel special and I was blessed to have him as a friend."

"What can you say about him that hasn't already been said? The man was just a quality human being," said John Kneib, former Committee member and past Township administrator. "Rick was one of a kind."

"He was quite a force on Township Committee. He was larger than life," added Geri Tabako, Pennsauken's first woman mayor and former Committeewoman. "Rick brought with him his whole experience of working in our schools. He was always so willing to help families in our town.

"He also really enjoyed doing weddings. One year, he did almost 100 of them. Rick was such a striking image in that black robe."

"Camden County lost a great public servant and community leader with the passing of Rick Taylor, as a tireless advocate for children, youth, and families. He had a smile that could light up a room and a keen intellect that was used to improve and enhance the Township over the last four decades," said Camden County Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr., on behalf the entire Free-

holder Board. "It is without question, Pennsauken and Camden County were better places because of Rick's contributions and his deep commitment to his community. Rick taught us all what it truly meant to serve our fellow citizens and give something back to our community."

"My heart is heavy today over the passing of my high school principal and dear friend Rick Taylor. Rick was more than an accomplished educator, football coach, administrator and mayor – he was a tireless advocate for our children, families and those less fortunate," said U.S. Congressman Donald Norcross. "His passing is a great loss to Pennsauken and our entire community, as well as a deeply personal loss for those who were privileged to call him a friend and mentor. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife Bernice and their family and loved ones."

Born on May 1, 1946 in Wilmington, Del., Rick first moved to Pennsauken in 1969 after graduating college, taking a position as an English teacher at Pennsauken High School. In his 42 years working in the Pennsauken School District, Mr. Taylor was an assistant principal at the high school, principal at two of Pennsauken's elementary schools, and director of personnel. He also served as an assistant football coach and

head golf coach at Pennsauken High School. In 2017, the Pennsauken School District announced plans to name a state-of-the-art field house, to be built at the high school later this year, in Rick Taylor's honor.

"Discussing Mr. Taylor with his former students, he was best known for his

oversized personality and his fairness. He would always listen to your side of the story, even if he was upset with your actions," said Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, superintendent, Pennsauken School District, in a letter to the school community. "He referred to his students as 'doctor,' which might have been his amazing way

of letting them know that they could accomplish anything."

For well over two decades, Rick Taylor had been known as a dutiful public servant. First joining Pennsauken Township Committee in 1994, Mr. Taylor had served as the town's mayor nine times continued on page 29



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### **HEALTHYLIFESTYLES** Diagnosing, Dealing With Irritable Bowel Disease

According to data provided by the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, approximately 1.6 million Americans are currently living with irritable bowel disease (IBD), a jump of 200,000 cases since 2011. As many as 70,000 cases of IBD are diagnosed in the U.S. each year. Most cases of IBD are diagnosed before the age of 35; and there may be as many 80,000 children living with the disease.

IBD is an inflammatory disease, where the immune system mistakes normal, healthy cells in the gastrointestinal tract as foreign invaders and attacks them. While doctors aren't sure why this happens, it's believed that a combination of genes and environmental factors trigger a disturbance in the immune system. There are two types of IBD: Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Crohn's affects one or more layers of the gastrointestinal tract, from the mouth all the way to the rectum, with splotchy patches of inflammation. Ulcerative colitis is found only in the large intestine and colon; the inflammation is more uniform in these areas

Symptoms of Crohn's and ulcerative colitis can be any one of the following: stomach pain; weight loss; diarrhea, an urge to rush to the bathroom, or constipation; rash; joint pain; and mouth ulcers. IBD can also cause fevers, as the body goes into overdrive with the "infection." As many of these symptoms are indicative of other issues, cases of

IBD can take over a year to diagnose, and usually involve an ultrasound, MRI, and/or colonoscopy and endoscopy.

There is currently no cure for IBD, but there are treatments to eliminate flare ups and put the disease into remission. These include the use of 5-ASAs, like Pentasa or Lialda, which helps to coat and heal the intestines; steroids, used in the short term to help reduce inflammation; antibiotics, to eliminate bad bacte-

ria; immunomodulators, to change overactive immune systems; and biologics, like Entyvio, Humira, and Stelara, to stop inflammatory reaction. And while there is no "official" diet to limit flare ups of IBD, a well balanced diet with the use of oral supplements can assist with weight gain and improve healing. In extreme cases, surgery to remove highly damaged parts of the gastrointestinal tract may be necessary.

If you think you or a family member may have IBD, check with your doctor to see what steps you can take to diagnose the issue.

For more information on irritable bowel disease, visit CrohnsColitisFoundation.org. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has great resources for families with children suffering from IBD. You can find out more by visiting CHOPedu/IBD.

## Pennsauken Native Known For "Push Through" Movement Authors Children's Book

Pennsauken native Jasmyn Wright was a teacher at a charter school in Philadelphia when the "Push Through" video of her classroom gained international notoriety and sparked a global initiative. Now the founder of the non-profit Push Through Corporation and noted keynote speaker has authored a picture book that celebrates resilience in the face of adversity.

"I'm Gonna Push Through!" is an "invitation to young readers to announce their own power and to recognize and reaffirm that of others, regardless of setbacks." It's inspired by the mantra Wright shared with her students and posted as a YouTube video that reached 3.5 million views in 2017.

The book is currently on pre-order on Amazon, BarnesandNoble.com, and

Inagine who you will become, once you become aware of who you are.

Pennsauken native Jasmyn Wright turned a classroom mantra into a worldwide initiative. She's written a children's book based on the "Push Through" movement.

Target.com, with a release date of Feb. 18. To coincide with the book launch, Jasmyn is planning a series of signings

locally. For dates and more information, visit WePushThrough.org.

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### **GOINGGREEN** Sharing The Love Of Plants For Valentine's Day

By Kathleen Harvey, AAP Columnist

February is a hopeful month, where we turn the corner, half way through winter. It is the month of Valentine's Day, where we buy things for our significant others as a representation of our love and affection. Traditional gifts include cut flowers, chocolates, and romantic cards. I have always personally felt that a living plant is preferred over cut flowers or fattening chocolates. No offense to the florists and chocolatiers: I do enjoy chocolates on occasion.

Living plants provide more enjoyment for me and provide a lasting reminder of the person who gave them to me, especially when the plant is a piece of an heirloom handed down from one of their family members. I think it's amazing to hear people say that a plant, or a piece of a plant, has been handed down from generation to generation. Bonsai trees can live more than 100 years, if provided with proper care. It's not unusual to see bonsai trees in the last will and testament of someone who lovingly cared for their collection for decades. Imagine what tell us if they were able.

My collection includes plants that belonged to friends who are no longer with us; and some that have been divided and shared among friends and family for decades. For example, one friend sent me cuttings of a begonia that belonged to her great grandmother. It was tough to get going, but one cutting out of five survived and is now thriving. Another friend is of Portuguese decent. His ancestors brought cuttings of fig trees to America with them over 100 years ago. Those cuttings have become huge trees, cuttings of which are now shared with friends and family throughout the Delaware Valley; I am privileged to have a piece of that tree, which I have now shared with friends. A local nursery worked out an arrangement with an elderly Italian woman to trim and wrap her heirloom fig tree in the fall, which was brought with her family from Italy when they immigrated decades ago, in exchange for permission to propagate and sell the cuttings. Those heirloom figs are some of the sweetest, best tasting fruits to enjoy in late summer. Christmas

those trees witnessed, what they could cactus, which broadly refers to Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter cactus, are popular to enjoy around the recently ended holidays. Pictures of some of those plants were posted on social media, along with dimensions of the huge ones and how long they have

thrived in their homes. Now is the perfect time to begin propagating them for next blooming season.

Orchids, especially cattleya and paphiopedilum, can live for decades too. One cattleya in my collection is a piece of a plant hybridized over 120 years ago!

We are caretakers of our parents, significant others, children, and grandchildren. What better way to show how much you care than to share your joy of growing a plant that is generations old, to continue its existence long after we are gone?

Happy Valentine's Day everyone!





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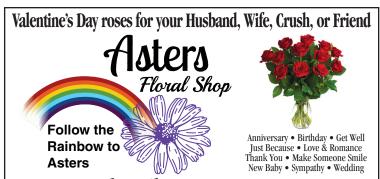
### Mayors Killion, Brennan To Speak At Next PMAC Meeting

Pennsauken Mayor Tim Killion and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan will be the guest speakers at the networking luncheon of the Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce, held on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

Sign-in begins at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 12, with the meeting starting at noon. Admission is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. Attendees are asked to R.S.V.P. to Nancy Ellis at (856) 438-0833 or pmac1 team@gmail.com by Monday, Feb. 10.



Pennsauken Mayor Tim Killion and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan will be the guest speakers at the PMAC networking luncheon on Feb. 12.



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### **Lions Club's McFarland Receives Camden County Freedom Medal**

Pennsauken's Mary Anne McFarland was among 14 Camden County residents being honored at the Collingswood Ballroom for their selfless contributions to improving their community at the 2020 Camden County Freedom Medal Ceremony. The award, created by the Freeholder Board in 2001, is presented to civic leaders who demonstrate the ideals and actions that reflect the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22,

"Each year since 2001, we ask the community to help us identify Camden County residents who exemplify the ideals indicative of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr. "This year we are honoring 14 selfless individuals who have made significant contributions to their community.

McFarland was a longtime resident of Pennsauken, whose commitment to



Mary Anne McFarland of Pennsauken was a recipient of the 2020 Camden County Freedom Medal. Her son, Jameson, is seen here accepting the award on her behalf.

service has had her involved in grassroots initiatives and leadership roles for three nationally recognized organizations. Mary Anne was a member of the Woman's Club of Merchantville and an integral part of winning many of the awards they received at state conventions. She chaired the Home Tour and established the long-standing Operation Santa. Mary Anne was a longstanding troop leader for Boy Scouts in Merchantville, Pennsauken and Haddon Heights, having a great impact in the region by fostering future leaders. She was

instrumental in the lives of countless young leaders, supporting at least 20 young men as they worked for and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts Mary Anne served on the Lions Club of Pennsauken and had been the secretary and sight chairperson for the last decade. McFarland also was a recent recipient of the 10-year Chevron Award, recognizing Lions for their long-term service.

"My mother's legacy is that she impacted so many lives across her lifetime,"

said Mary Anne's son, Jameson, who accepted the Freedom Medal on her behalf. Mary Anne was gravely ill and coming to the end of her five-year battle with a serious illness. "Receiving this award means a lot to my family. She's being rewarded for the service she gave the community, at a time she finally has the reward of peace herself." All Around Pennsauken was saddened to hear of Mary Anne's passing on Jan. 24. We are keeping Mary Anne, her family, and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

### **Annual Welsh Heritage Day Held On March 1**

To celebrate the Welsh origin of the Morgan family, the Pennsauken Historical Society will be hosting its annual Welsh Heritage Day. The event will be held at the beautiful, historic Griffith Morgan House on Sunday, March 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

See a demonstration of Welsh dishes prepared at the colonial hearth by Ruth Konrad. Additionally, there will be light refreshments that will include customary Welsh treats, such as cakes and cheeses.

While enjoying a delectable bite to eat, relish in the sounds of traditional Welsh music on the harp, performed by Laura Dishong. The musical re-enactors the Sea Dogs return to share the lore of several famous Welsh pirates: Howell Davis and Bartholomew Roberts, otherwise known as Black Bart, among others.

They will also be singing traditional songs of Wales, as well as of the sea.

Welsh Heritage Day will also feature exhibits that will portray Welsh history, language, music, and much more about the Welsh culture and their migration from Wales to America.

Welsh Heritage Day on March 1 is free to the public. Griffith Morgan House is located at 243 Griffith Morgan Lane. Free parking is available.

Visit the Griffith Morgan House or Pennsauken Historical Society pages, or the group "Pennsauken History Forum" on Facebook for more details or directions; or leave a message at (856) 486-9561 or e-mail pennsauken historical society@gmail.com for more information.

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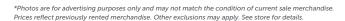
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By Joe Scavuzzo, Director, Department of Public Works

The operation of a Public Works department is dictated largely by the seasons in our region and the requirements that each brings. With the repetitive annual cycle, it can be difficult to identify new ways to reinvent our operations to better serve our residents. Communication of information to our residents is difficult to maintain and there are, unfortunately, only so many people that will read this article on a monthly basis

### **Public Works To Launch Facebook Page To Assist Residents**

to get seasonal Department of Public Works information.

Back in 2018, I began monitoring the Public Works e-mail account from a Township phone. I felt that if I could observe that when a bunch of e-mails came in regarding a specific area of trash being missed, I could alert the trash company and solve the problem before the next business day. We are looking to expand upon this into the social networking spectrum in 2020.

The goal is to create a Facebook page that Public Works will operate to offer another method of communication that channels resident concerns and complaints to us in real time. Although we may not be able to react immediately to things that are not emergent, residents can send along photos that have a date and time stamp easily shared over Facebook through their smart phones. This function, combined with regular posts that offer hot topics, has the potential to allow our staff to determine a resolution before they respond. We anticipate a rollout sometime in mid-February.

### 2020 Camden County Hazardous **Waste Collection Events**

Camden County has scheduled six hazardous waste collections for this year, each held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.:

- March 21 at Cherry Hill Public Works Complex, 1 Perina Blvd., Cherry Hill
- April 25 at Collingswood Public Works Complex, 713 N. Atlantic Ave., Collingswood
- May 16 at Atco Parking Area at the corner of Atco and Raritan avenues
- June 13 at Gloucester Twp. Camden County College parking lot, off of Peter

### TALKIN' TRASH

THERE ARE NO "TRASH HOLIDAYS" OR SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS Cheeseman Rd.

- Sept. 26 at Pennsauken Landfill, 9600 N. River Road, Pennsauken
- Oct. 17 at Camden County Public Works Complex, 2311 Egg Harbor Rd., Lindenwold

### A Tip During Snow Plowing

I would like to offer a couple suggestions for the remaining weeks of winter that can make life easier during our snow plowing operations. By placing vehicles in vour driveway, where possible, before snowfall begins, our crews can open each street "curb-to-curb," as they are instructed to. This avoids stretches of street not being plowed as our dump trucks cannot maneuver between two parked vehicles. If you choose to shovel your driveway apron before we plow your street, place the snow on the left side of your driveway. This would reduce the amount of snow that a plow could grab from the street and push back into your driveway apron. When shoveling, place snow on your front lawn and not in the street. There is much more area for snow disposal on the front lawn than the grass curb strip area where the street snow will likely end up. Heavy, wet snow is dangerous! Only shovel a small amount at a time to prevent back injuries. Our drivers take the same approach when plowing our streets.

### A Word On Rick Taylor

I feel it necessary to offer a Public Works perspective on the service of former Pennsauken Mayor Rick Taylor. As with most Township Committee members through my five years in this position, I have received feedback and input from Rick on several occasions, in addition to a head's up whenever something needed immediate attention that we were unaware of. This speaks to his diligence while serving our residents. Having known him most of my life, as many have, you could not help but pick up a few things along the way. One saying I recall of his in the early days of contentious Catholic Church consolidation attempts was, "Don't let the people of God keep you from Him." Without getting into the religious end of that, I found that the same principal can be applied to the work of Public Works. Early on in my career, I struggled with the anger and aggressiveness that some residents displayed to my staff and I while we were trying to help them. Applying Rick's saying to our service of the public fits well: don't let the negativity of Pennsauken keep you from serving our town. It's easy to become unmotivated after being yelled at. This saying acknowledges that although there will be

continued on page 32



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### Public Servant, Educator, Pennsauken Proud: Rick Taylor Passes Away continued from page 23

in that span.

"I really had never thought about serving as an elected official," said Taylor in a 2010 interview. "But when I thought about all the times I talked about the need to give back, I knew that accepting that challenge was simply the right thing for me to do."

With Taylor's health in decline in the past few years, attending Committee meetings and Township events had proved challenging. But Rick showed considerable strength to not only be present as much as possible, but also be truly engaged. His intellect and spirit never wavered.

In addition to his commitment to the community, Mr. Taylor was a man with a deep and abiding faith. A devout Roman Catholic, Rick was extremely active at Saint Stephen's Church, where he and his family had been members since 1997. During that time, Rick had served as a lector, as well as on the finance committee, among other parish initiatives. He also was on the board of the Diocese of Camden's Office of Black Catholic Ministries.

Rick also served as commissioner of the Delaware River Port Authority; on the Board of Governors for the Brooks-Irvine Football Club; and as a member of the Homestead Youth Association. In addition, he was the recipient of many accolades over the years, including Camden County's Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Medal in 2018 and the Individual ACTION award by the Diocese of Camden's Catholic Charities in 2016.

"I just hope what I've done educationally and as an elected official has made people's lives better, having an opportunity to help people along the way," said Taylor during a video interview in 2018. "There's something very rewarding, being able to help people. All of us have had people who have helped us get to where we are. We have an obligation to help people to climb. No one gets to the top by themselves."

Approximately 1,000 people attended Rick's viewing at Falco/Caruso & Leonard Funeral Home in Pennsauken, with family, friends, and dignitaries offering their sympathy and respect. At his funeral at Saint Stephen's, Fr. Daniel Rocco, pastor, spoke of Rick's family and friends coming together to help him with his illness.

"I witnessed the care for a husband, a father, and a brother for three and half years. It was special because it was Christ-centered. It was special because it drank from the well of love.

"All this took place and offered myself and ultimately each and every one of you, an opportunity to be thankful for the witness that Rick gave to each and every one of us."

Rick's son, Scott, also took an opportunity to share thoughts about his father, with some of the same humor his dad was known for.

"Anyone who knew my Dad knew that he loved Christ, he loved his family, his church family, his friends and community, and that he really loved golf. In fact, he was probably the first one on the tee box with Jesus. Knowing my father, he was asking Jesus to pick up the pace so that they could get 36 holes in before lunch.

"My dad spent over 40 years as an educator, so it was in his blood to teach. And he didn't just teach lessons at school, he taught them at home. Growing up, he would always say, 'Whatever you choose to do in life, don't be happy with being good at it. Strive to be great at it.' It was that attitude that helped him excel in education, local politics, as a husband and father, and as a servant of the community."

Mr. Taylor is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Bernice; children Holly and Scott; daughter-in-law, Donyelle; grandchildren, Alexandra, Jeremy, and

Amelia; sister Toni Branson (Bruce); nieces Jamie Hatcher (Jesse) and Brittany Benson; a great nephew Branson, who he affectionately named "Bam Bam;" and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

The entire Pennsauken community is thankful for the decades of service and sacrifice that Rick Taylor gave to us. We will keep the spirit of his memory and what he stood for in our hearts, for we will not see his like again.





### STONEGATE AT ST. STEPHEN - PHASE II

Beginning on November 18, 2019, Stonegate at St. Stephen - Phase II will be accepting applications for occupancy at the newly constructed senior (over 55) affordable apartment building located at 6312 Browning Road, Pennsauken, NJ.

- Applicant household income must be less than \$37,860 for a one-person household and \$43,260 for a two-person household. One-bedroom unit rents are \$843 per month and two-bedroom unit rents are \$1025 per month.
- Applications are currently available for weekday pick-up from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at The Diocesan Housing Services Corporation, 1845 Haddon Avenue, Camden, NJ 08103.
- Interested parties may also call (856) 342-4187 to request applications by mail. Completed applications must be submitted by mail or hand delivery to the address below. Applications will not be accepted by fax.

Diocesan Housing Services Corporation, ATTN: Katherine Boyer 1845 Haddon Avenue, Camden, New Jersey 08103 Phone: 856-342-4187





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### PENNSAUKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

- AARP Tax Aide Program Wednesdays and Thursdays now through April 15. AARP's indispensable Tax-Aide program assisting local taxpayers is back for the 2020 tax season. For details, visit page 33 of this issue.
- Date Night Drop Off Friday, Feb. 14;
   5:00 to 9:00 p.m. A recipe for a lovely night out with your sweetie! Drop the kids off. Pick them up later. That's it! We'll take care of the rest. Dinner, dessert, and a movie will be provided. A small fee per child is required. Contact the library for more information: (856) 665-5959 ext.3.
- Live Step Performance Saturday, Feb. 22; 3:00 p.m. For all ages. Join us for a lively, interactive Step dance performance! Sorority sisters from local chapters of Delta Sigma Theta and

### February Events at the Pennsauken Library

Zeta Phi Beta will share some highlights of Step history, perform routines, and teach simple steps to participants.

 Lunchtime Documentary – Tuesday, Feb. 25; noon. We'll be screening a documentary set in a Baltimore high school, about a uniquely black dance style popular across America. Stop by or call the Library for the film title: (856) 665.5959 ext. 3

### **EVENTS FOR KIDS AND TEENS**

- Wee Readers Tuesdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, & 25; 10:30 a.m. For ages 0-2. Join Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina for 30 minutes of short books, rhymes, songs, and movement, aimed at developing baby's motor, sensory and social skills!
- Explore on the Floor Tuesdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, & 25; 11:00 a.m. For ages 0-2. This free-play program allows for our littlest patrons to socialize and play with a puppet theater, soft toys, DUPLO

blocks, activity tables, and more!

- Preschool Storytime Wednesdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19, & 26; 10:30 a.m. For ages 3-5. Aimed at increasing your child's vocabulary and attention span and teaching fine motor skills, Storytime combines reading with music, multilingual skills, and rhymes, helping little ones foster a lifelong love of books and reading!
- Make and Take Craft Thursdays, Feb. 6, 13, 20, & 27; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. For all ages. Each week, drop in and make a craft here at the Library, or take one home with you for later. Crafts for children of all ages will be available.
- Toddler Movement Sunday, Feb. 9;
   2:00 to 2:30 p.m. For ages 2-5. A creative movement class focusing on coordination, rhythm and translating music to movement.
- Baby Ballet Sunday, Feb. 9; 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. For ages 2-5. An introductory dance class to develop skills in body

awareness, flexibility, and following directions.

- Marilyn Larke Presents: Harriet Tubman and Friends Along The Way Saturday, Feb. 15; 11:00 a.m. For ages 5-12. Come out to see Moses, and hear her talk about the people she met along the way. She will show items from her travels that lead her and others to the Promised Land using a network of safe places known as the Underground Railroad. Family-friendly activities to follow the presentation. Snow date is Feb. 23 at 2:00 p.m.
- PJ Storytime Thursday, Feb. 20; 6:00 p.m. For all ages. The Library celebrates Black History Month with a special PJ Storytime reading and viewing of Matthew A. Cherry's Academy Award-nominated animated short, "Hair Love." Feel free to wear your favorite pajamas, and/or bring a snuggly

friend from home! Light refreshments will be served.

- Yoga Storytime Sunday, Feb. 23; 2:00 to 2:45 p.m. For ages 3-8. Explore stories and songs through basic yoga movements. Registration is required. Contact the Youth Services department at (856) 665.5959 ext. 6, pennsaukenyslibrarian@gmail.com, or stop by the Youth Services desk to register.
- Leap Day Extravaganza Saturday, Feb. 29; noon to 3:00 p.m. Join us for a fun day of activities celebrating the extra day we only get once every four years! Check with the Youth Services Department for full details: (856) 665-5959 ext 6.

### **PENNSAUKEN LIBRARY**

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NEW HOURS FOR 2020: Mon. through Thurs: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Fri. & Sat: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. CLOSED: Monday, Feb. 17, in observance of Presidents' Day.

### **Library Holds Meetings For 2020 Census**

Pennsauken Free Public Library is taking an active role in the 2020 Census and we invite you to be a part of it!

The Pennsauken Complete Count Committee is holding open organizational meetings in the Library's Community Room on the following dates:

• Monday, Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m. – Communities of Faith Census Information Meeting

- Tuesday, Feb. 11, 5:30 p.m. Spanish Census Information Meeting
- Tuesday, Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m. Renters Census Information Meeting

• Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5:30 p.m. –

General Census Information Meeting The data obtained from the Census count helps to shape our future for the next ten years; determines how many

representatives each state will have in

Congress; influences the allocation of \$675 billion in federal funding to states and communities for programs that support education, housing, health facilities, transportation, emergency services, food assistance, etc.; and much more.

The US Census Bureau is still recruiting for 2020 Census Takers. If you have any questions, contact us at (856) 665-5959 x3, and ask for the Reference Desk.

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### FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Friends Of The Library Host Chair Yoga, Bake Sales And More

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

If your New Year's resolutions are to relax and get more exercise, the Friends have four more chair yoga dates scheduled this month. Held in the Community Room at the Library, chair yoga takes place on Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28, from noon to 1:00 p.m. If you didn't already register last month, you should call the Circulation Desk at (856) 665-5959, ext. 3, to add your name to the sign-up sheet. Chair yoga is an excellent way to gently stretch out weary muscles and help strengthen them, just in time to get ready to shovel snow, or in anticipation

of weeding your garden come springtime. Instructor Michelle Carlino is a certified yoga teacher with extensive experience in therapeutic yoga, as well as working with clients with multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, brain injuries, visual impairment and back pain. Chair yoga appears deceptively simple, but don't be fooled. It's a wonderful way to tone up and stretch without having to get down on the floor; and some of the many exercises she'll demonstrate also address balance issues some participants have. Don't miss out.

With Valentine's Day making its annual appearance this month, we have a

special treat, especially if you're looking for an alternative to candy. Our next bake sale is on Saturday, Feb. 8. Candy is easy. But cookies, cakes, pies, brownies, breads? Not so much. It's the perfect stop to stock up on delicious goodies for all your favorite Valentines; and we promise we won't tell anyone you bought them! The sale sets up in the Library's lobby from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., unless we run out sooner. So plan to get there early for the best selection.

The next Munch and a Movie takes place Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., in the Community Room. Bring along as many friends as you like and enjoy the lunch you pack, and the complimentary snacks, beverages and movie the Friends provide. Prepare to be entertained for several hours on us!

Finally, our annual Art Show and Sale takes place April 19-26 and offers a wonderful opportunity for artists using a variety of media to display their work to the public. This is our 15th year; and entries have included pieces using charcoal, fabric art, hand-carved wood, metal designs, papier-mache, oil, pastels, watercolor, mixed media, acrylics and photography. The show is open to Pennsauken and Merchantville artists, from students in grades 8-12 and adults. Each entry must have been completed

within the last three years and arrive ready to hang or display, so no wet paint please! An ID card must be attached to the rear of each piece, and each may be but is not required to be priced for sale. A donation of 20 percent of any sales to the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library is requested. Artist may submit up to two entries each, although in case of overcrowding, we reserve the right to limit that number. All artwork must be delivered on Thursday, April 16, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and Friday. April 17, from noon to 5:30 p.m. Display hours take place April 19-26 during regular Library hours. This year's exhibit will be in the Library's magazine section rather than the Community Room as in previous years. On Sunday, April 26, everyone is invited to our "Meet the Artist" reception from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room; and any artist whose work is for sale must be present. All entries can be picked up immediately following the reception on the 26th. More information, including maximum sizes requirements for entries, plus the ID cards each must display, will be found in the Art Show brochure now in the Library's

A series of informative and fun workshops always takes place throughout Art

Week. This year will be no exception, so check out next month's column for final details on our 2020 events. Space, as always, is limited, so sign up early.

Join us on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room for our next Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library meeting. Better yet, sign up and become a member!

### Public Works To Launch Facebook Page To Assist Residents

continued from page 28

difficult times, the greater good of improving Pennsauken through our persistence is the goal to focus on. He was a noble public servant whose service will continue to be an example to those lives he touched.

Stay safe, stay warm and forward any and all questions to our office at (856) 663-0178 or PublicWorks@twp. pennsauken.nj.us.

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### **AARP Tax Aide Program Returns To Pennsauken Library**



The popular AARP Tax Aide program, which assists taxpayers in the local area with their 2019 tax returns, will soon be available at the Pennsauken Free Public Library.

AARPTax Aide counselors will be in the Community Room of the Pennsauken Free Public Library, located at 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., on Wednesdays and Thursdays from Feb. 5 through April 15. Tax preparation appointments are available at 11:00 a.m., noon and 1:00 p.m. each day.

Residents can once again go online to schedule their tax preparation appointment. To make an appointment online, visit <a href="http://bit.ly/PennsaukenTax2020">http://bit.ly/PennsaukenTax2020</a> using your web browser. Fill in the information requested, pick the date and time preferred, and click "Submit." You will get back a confirmation email immediately. If the date and time you want are not available, you will be directed to the next open date and time slots. If you need to cancel or reschedule for any rea-

son, that can be done online as well.

For those without an e-mail address or access to a computer, there is an in-person registration option at the Pennsauken Free Public Library. Residents can visit a special kiosk at the Library's Circulation Desk to sign up for a tax preparation appointment. For those without e-mail, confirmation forms will be available at the kiosk. This sign up option is available during the Library's normal business hours and staff members are available to assist individuals if needed.

With the online and in-person regis-

tration options in place, the Library will not be taking tax preparation appointments over the phone this year.

The Pennsauken Free Public Library will be accepting walk-ins, but only on a limited first come, first served basis. The Library's front desk will have numbered cards to give out to walk-ins, up to the maximum number of tax payers allowed for that day.

Those individuals who ONLY need to have a "blue book" completed can come in, without an appointment, between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Wednesdays and

Thursdays, from Feb. 5 through April 15.

Residents coming in for a tax preparation appointment are reminded to bring a government-issued photo ID for all taxpayers; Social Security cards for each person whose name is on the tax return; ALL tax documents (W-2s, 1099s, 1098s, etc.); last year's tax return, whether prepared by AARP or not; and if employed in 2019, a copy of your last paystub(s) for 2019. A list of important documents to bring your tax preparer is now available at the Library's Circula-



### **Free CERT Training Teaches Disaster Preparedness**

In the wake of extreme weather

events in the United States and elsewhere, many Americans have become increasingly interested in disaster preparedness and response skills. This March, the Camden County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will offer a free, 20-hour training curriculum to prepare interested Camden County residents to help protect themselves, their family, and their community during a disaster.

"The CERT program is an all-risk, all-hazard training designed to help you

protect your family and neighbors in the event of a disaster," said Freeholder Jonathan Young, liaison to the Camden County Department of Public Safety. "CERT team members are not first responders but are uniquely prepared to respond during traumatic events. This is an excellent opportunity to give yourself and your family peace of mind in an increasingly unpredictable environment."

The training is comprised of both practical exercises and classroom instruction and includes:

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- Recognizing types of hazards
- Disaster medical operations

- Fire safety
- Light search and rescue
- Lift and carries
- Debris removal techniques
- Door breaching

Training will be conducted on Friday, March 6, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Sunday, March 8, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sessions are held at the Charles P. Dougherty Sr. Center, located at 508 Lambert Ave. in Mount Ephraim. Once initial training is completed, participants will be eligible for additional skills training throughout the year.

Pre-registration is required in order to participate. Participants under the age of 18 must also receive parent/guardian permission to attend. If you are interested in training and joining the CERT Team, please register by emailing cert@camdencodps.org no later than Monday, March 1,2020.



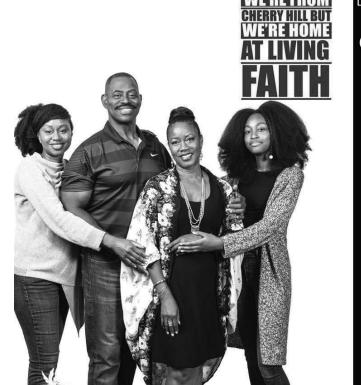
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# **Sports** PHS Girls Wrestling Making Leaps And Bounds

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

For the second year in a row, the State of New Jersey is hosting an end of season wrestling tournament solely for high school girls that compete in the sport. Pennsauken High School is taking advantage of this growing momentum, creating opportunities for these talented young ladies to test their skills against their peers, while generating more interest in their own program.

"The girls in our wrestling program are just as competitive as the boys," says John Chisholm, coach of Pennsauken High School's girls wrestling team. "It's exciting to see their approach to the sport. They hate to lose, same as the boys."

In December, Pennsauken High School hosted the first-ever "Queen of the East" girls wrestling tournament. One hundred and sixty-four female wrestlers battled over the weekend to determine the "best of the best" in the tri-state area.

"When we started with the girls last year, we realized there wasn't anything just for them," explains Steven Wallace, coach of boys wrestling at PHS. "We wanted to create a tournament and make it as close as states as possible."

"It's an opportunity to give them their own platform, as they're competing against girls of the same ability," adds Chisholm.

Athletic Director Eric Mossop explained that the "Queen of the East" tournament taps into the growing popularity of girls wrestling at the high school level.

"Pennsauken High School has one of the larger girls wrestling teams in South Jersey; and more and more schools are



Pennsauken High School's girls wrestling team is one of the larger squads in South Jersey

investing time and resources into these programs. Creating this tournament helps us highlight our program and put PHS at the forefront of this trend in high school athletics."

One high school wrestler benefiting from these competitions is sophomore Tatiana Walker, one of two Pennsauken student athletes who placed second at the "Queen of the East." Walker was approached by Coach Chisholm, her physical education teacher, to join the team. And while the two had a "difficult" relationship prior, Tatiana's approach and outlook is much different now.

"In the classroom, we didn't click. Here, he's really helped me a lot," explains Walker. "At first, I wasn't really into wrestling. I wanted to just try. Once I went to my first practice, I knew this was my sport.

"I just love the adrenaline. It's addictive. Once I hear that whistle, it's a rush."

"Tatiana's working harder, she's found a way to apply her energy and drive," adds Chisholm. "She's come a long way. There's more to go. I'm challenging her to be the best wrestler to come out of this program."

But it's not just the thrill that appeals to Tatiana.

"Wrestling makes you grow as a person. It forces you to look at what you do wrong and improve yourself. It's the same in class. It makes me more independent and mature. I look at things differently as an athlete and a person."

With 18 girls currently on the team at PHS, and a lot of buzz about their achievements on the mat, the future looks bright for both the PHS squad and girls wrestling at the high school level.

"We're excited about our progress, but there's more to be done," says Mossop. "We want to continue to help our student athletes compete and succeed."



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PYAA softball and baseball in-person registration begin this month at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave.

Sign-ups will be on the following

- Saturdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22; 9:00 a.m. to noon
- Tuesdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25; 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursdays, Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27; 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The last day to register is Thursday, Feb. 27.

PYAA Softball and Baseball are open to children living in Pennsauken and Merchantville. In addition, volunteers and coachers are needed.

For more information, visit PYAA.net.

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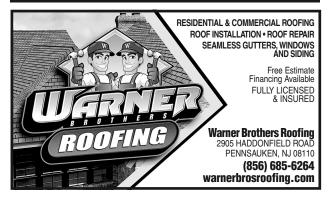
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